

**GALLATIN LOCAL WATER QUALITY DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
April 6, 2006**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bill Hunt                      Joe Skinner  
Kathy Gallagher          Rich Mikelson  
Sherwin Leep

**GLWQD EMPLOYEES/STAFF**

Alan English, Manager  
Tammy Crone, Water Quality Specialist  
Tawnya Storm, Administrative Assistant

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED**

Ell Bennett - Absent  
Steve Kirchhoff - Excused  
Ron Thein - Absent  
Tim Ford – Excused

**PUBLIC AND GUESTS**

Tim Roark, Environmental Health  
Bill Murdock, County Commissioner  
Jerry Kalur

Sherwin Leep called the meeting to order at 8:20 AM.

**I. OTHER BUSINESS**

County Commissioner Bill Murdock was present at the board meeting to discuss the Gallatin Local Water Quality District's (GLWQD) role in the local subdivision review process. This topic was not listed on the agenda but was discussed under Other Business, which was moved up on the agenda.

Alan informed the Board and Commissioner Murdock that he is looking for feedback on what kind of involvement the GLWQD should have in subdivision review. Commissioner Skinner informed Alan that the Commissioners are looking for any kind of data concerning water quantity and quality in order to steer them in the right direction in their decision making process. He added that he appreciates Alan's comments on large subdivisions, but feels as though Alan has to be careful to not step over the non-regulatory line. Alan agreed, but noted that some folks feel that any recommendations made by the GLWQD could be viewed as regulatory. Joe added that he prefers getting all the information, but not recommendations.

Commissioner Murdock basically agreed and said what the Commission really needs is more information about water resources in the County. He would like the GLWQD to be able to provide him with information and data alerting him of contaminated ground water for example, and information on water quantity trends, such as "is there enough water in the aquifer in certain areas to sustain the growth the Gallatin Valley is experiencing". He explained how very valuable aquifer and water resource information are to the Commissioners when they are reviewing subdivision water demands. He added that he would really appreciate the more effort from the GLWQD to provide water resource information.

Alan noted that developing the types of water resource information the Commissioners are requesting is very time consuming and expensive. Kathy Gallagher added that it is very difficult to get projects like this funded by grants. Commissioner Murdock suggested that the GLWQD's efforts could be focused in high growth areas such as Belgrade, Manhattan, and Four Corners.

Alan mentioned that the GLWQD is currently in the process of drilling additional monitoring wells in the Gallatin Valley to help provide some of the information the Commission desires. The GLWQD will spend about \$50,000 of its cash savings for this purpose.

Commissioner Skinner mentioned how useful the Water Resources Task Force was and that maybe the GLWQD can work on getting the Task Force reconvened to help tackle some of these issues. Joe is hoping to be able to advise the developers ahead of time about the water quantity and quality in an area. Alan will be checking in with the Task Force members to see if it's possible to reconvene the group in the very near future.

Tim Roark stated how Alan's ability and work plan are good, but how difficult it will be for him and the staff to collect, review, and present all this data on top of their normal, every day workload. He added that this task would be a lot easier with more staff for the GLWQD. Kathy agreed that this is a huge job beyond what the GLWQD has staff and money for. Commissioner Murdock responded by telling Alan to come up with a useful and valuable work plan based on the Commissioner's requests and they'll see what they can do to help monetarily.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2, 2006 MINUTES**

Kathy made a motion to approve the March 2, 2006 minutes as drafted. Rich seconded the motion. The motion was passed as follows:

### **ROLL CALL**

Sherwin Leep – For  
Bill Hunt – For  
Joe Skinner – For

KathyGallagher - For  
Rich Mikelson - For

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **IV. STAFF UPDATE**

Alan reviewed staff update and summarized the District's activities for the previous month.

Alan mentioned that he is up for his evaluation. He added that the board could talk more about this at the retreat.

The topic of finding new office space was briefly discussed. Alan stated that he would like the office to be in the most populated area of the county, which will obviously be somewhere in Bozeman. Commissioner Skinner said that Alan should work with Ed on developing long term plans regarding the GLWQD office space. Alan responded that Ed told him to write a memo to the Commission to get the specifics on the dates, available spaces, etc. Alan will write the memo soon in hopes of getting the details on the district's move.

The board discussed the NRCS – Conservation Initiative Grant Program Application agenda item under staff update. Tammy informed the board that numerous pharmaceutically active compounds have been detected in ground water, municipal wastewater and septic system effluent through studies conducted in the Helena and Missoula areas. She and Alan are very interested in doing some research in this area and are working with the MSU Extension Service to write a grant application. Alan added that they'd like to pick some sampling places above and below wastewater plants, and that he'd like to look for these contaminants in storm water as well. He mentioned that this could also possibly become a joint project with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Tim Roark added that engineers say there is no proof of septic systems contaminating ground water, and that these studies would be very helpful in proving that pharmaceutical drugs taken by humans are showing up in septic systems and ground water.

Alan requested formal Board approval to submit a grant application in cooperation with MSU Extension and to commit up to \$10,000 in cash match and \$10,000 in in-kind match with the grant application.

Kathy made a motion to approve the GLWQD to spend up to \$10,000 cash and \$10,000 match to help fund the project. Rich seconded the motion. The motion was passed as follows:

**ROLL CALL**

Sherwin Leep – For  
Bill Hunt – For  
Joe Skinner - For

KathyGallagher - For  
Rich Mikelson - For

**V. MONITORING WELL NETWORK PROJECT UPDATE**

Alan informed the board that the fifth monitoring well was currently in the process of being drilled. This well is being drilled in the Wheatland Hills Subdivision. Alan notified the Board that DNRC extended the grant deadline to allow more time for drilling until December 31, 2006. Alan also briefly mentioned that he is in the process of looking for additional sites.

**VI. NRCS – CONSERVATION INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION**

This agenda item was covered under staff update.

**VII. GLWQD BUDGET UPDATE**

Alan went over the status of the current Fiscal-Year 2006 budget. A spreadsheet was provided to Board members, showing budgeted amounts and the amount of money spent to date in each budget category. Alan noted that the budget is on track. He also mentioned that a portable sampling pump and a color laser printer, that were approved with the FY 2006 budget have not been purchased, but probably will be before the end of the fiscal year. Alan also informed the Board that he requested Human Resources to give Tammy a 3% increase in pay

### **VIII. AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING**

Monitoring well network project update  
Office space  
Fiscal-Year 2007 Draft Budget  
Fiscal-Year 2007 Work Plan

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sherwin Leep, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Skinner, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan English, District Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date